



*Minutes of Commission Meeting
Tuesday, 18 November, 2014*

1. The tenth meeting of the Commission of 2014 took place at 12.00 p.m. in Room 2, Leinster House.

2. **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputy Seán Barrett, Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson), Deputy Bernard Durkan, Deputy Dan Neville, Deputy Jack Wall and Senator John Whelan.

Apologies were received from Deputy John Browne, Senator Paddy Burke, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad (Deputy Chairperson), Senator Marc MacSharry and Deputy Olivia Mitchell.

3. **CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION**

The Ceann Comhairle informed members that Deputy Frank Feighan had resigned from his position as an ordinary member of the Commission on his appointment as Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and Co-Chair of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly. Members noted that Deputy Olivia Mitchell had been appointed by resolution of the Dáil on 12 November to fill the vacancy in the membership caused by his resignation.

Members expressed thanks to Deputy Feighan for his service on the Commission.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 21 October 2014 were agreed by the Commission.

5. **PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE BANKING CRISIS**

The Commission considered a request from the Chairman of the Joint Committee of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis, Deputy Ciaran Lynch, for the provision of additional resources to facilitate members of the Committee of Inquiry for the duration of the Inquiry. The request was made in view of the significant time commitment required in undertaking the respective roles as Chairman and members of the Inquiry Committee.

The Commission agreed to:

- (i) provide additional secretarial facilities to each member of the Joint Committee of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis, up to a full time Parliamentary Assistant equivalent under the Scheme for Secretarial

Assistance, for the duration of the Banking Inquiry only, the costs of which are to be met from the Banking Inquiry cost centre, and

- (ii) introduce new regulations for this purpose in accordance with section 4(3) of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Acts 2003 to 2013.

The Commission noted that Senator Marc MacSharry had absented himself from the meeting as his presence during consideration of this item could pose a potential conflict of interest for him in view of his membership of the Inquiry Committee.

6. SANCTION FOR LEGAL FEES

The Commission granted further sanction for legal fees, in the sum of €26,204.90, to cover fees in addition to the amount sanctioned by it on 19 July 2011 for legal advice services in respect of the Supreme Court appeal in *Callely Vs Moylan and others*.

7. PROTOCOL ON THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL ADVICE TO OIREACHTAS COMMITTEES

The Commission approved a Protocol on the provision of legal and procedural advice to Oireachtas Committees. The Protocol was drawn up with a view to minimising the use of public resources in legal services by the Houses.

It was agreed that the Protocol, as adopted by the Committees on Procedure and Privileges of both Houses, would be issued to Committee Chairs, Committee Clerks and the Working Group of Committee Chairs.

8. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Commission appointed Deputy Olivia Mitchell to fill the vacancy arising in the membership of the Finance Committee following the resignation of Deputy Frank Feighan.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12.45 p.m.

SEÁN BARRETT, T.D.,
Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission.

Dated: